



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP
State Health Commissioner

Department of Health
P O BOX 2448
RICHMOND, VA 23218

TTY 7-1-1 OR
1-800-828-1120

May 1, 2009

Dear College and University Presidents:

On April 27th, I declared a public health emergency in Virginia in response to the intensifying outbreak of Influenza A H1N1. As you know, we now have two confirmed cases in Virginia, and more confirmed cases are likely. Fortunately, Virginia has a very strong public health system. Our pandemic flu preparedness and response plan was developed in close collaboration with numerous stakeholders, including representatives of higher education. This plan has been frequently tested, exercised and evaluated. Our 35 local health districts, each led by an experienced public health physician, have developed strong relationships with the colleges and universities in their areas. The Virginia Department of Health greatly values the partnerships that we have forged with our colleges and universities in order to protect the health of their students, faculty, administrators and campus communities. We are prepared to respond effectively to this public health emergency, and are do so around the clock.

Communication and information sharing are key components of our response. With that in mind, I have attached an open letter to all college and university students in Virginia. The letter requests that the students follow a few simple guidelines in order to protect themselves, their classmates and others in the community.

It is my request that you please make a copy of the attached letter available to all your students. Providing this information to students will strengthen our efforts to protect the health of all Virginians. Your cooperation and continuing assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karen Remley".

Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP
State Health Commissioner